

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

October 2, 2006

Ms. Julia Dougan
Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Ms. Dougan:

Thank you for providing the State of Alaska with a copy of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Ring of Fire Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS). We understand it was prepared using BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). We appreciate BLM's efforts to work and consult with state resource agencies throughout the development of this plan. I believe that this cooperative approach has benefited both the State of Alaska and BLM. We appreciate this additional opportunity, through the Governor's Consistency Review, to identify inconsistencies with approved state plans, policies, and programs pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.3-2.

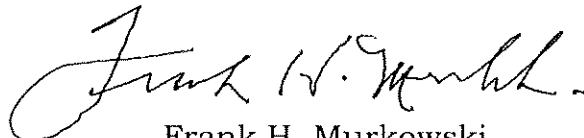
We recognize the difficulty inherent in developing a land use decision-making document designed to provide overall guidance in such a large area where land status is in flux due to unresolved state and native land selections. Development of the Ring of Fire Plan has presented challenges for both BLM and the state and we are pleased to see that those challenges have been met. The state has reviewed the proposed PRMP/FEIS and appreciates the changes made to the document since February 2006. We find the plan to be consistent with state interests, plans, policies, and programs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend your staff for their work in developing the Proposed Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan/EIS and in particular acknowledge BLM's efforts to address state concerns throughout the development of this plan. Our respective agency

Ms. Julia Dougan
October 2, 2006
Page 2

representatives have developed an effective working relationship that I trust will serve BLM and the state well in future planning efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank H. Murkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

cc: Michael L. Menge, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural
Resources
McKie Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
John Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations and Special Counsel,
Alaska Office of the Governor